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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,924	08/28/2003	Hiroyuki Koyama	03496/LH	2489

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EXAMINER

COLILLA, DANIEL JAMES

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/652,924

Applicant(s)

KOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Colilla

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/18/05, 2/1/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

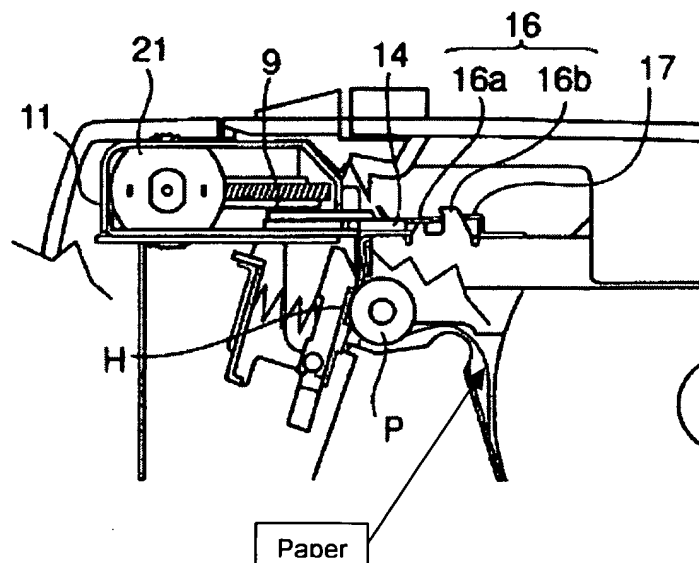
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosomi et al. (US 5,833,380).

With respect to claim 1, Hosomi et al. discloses a printer unit with a guide path as shown by the paper in the Figure below taken from Figure 4 of Hosomi et al.:

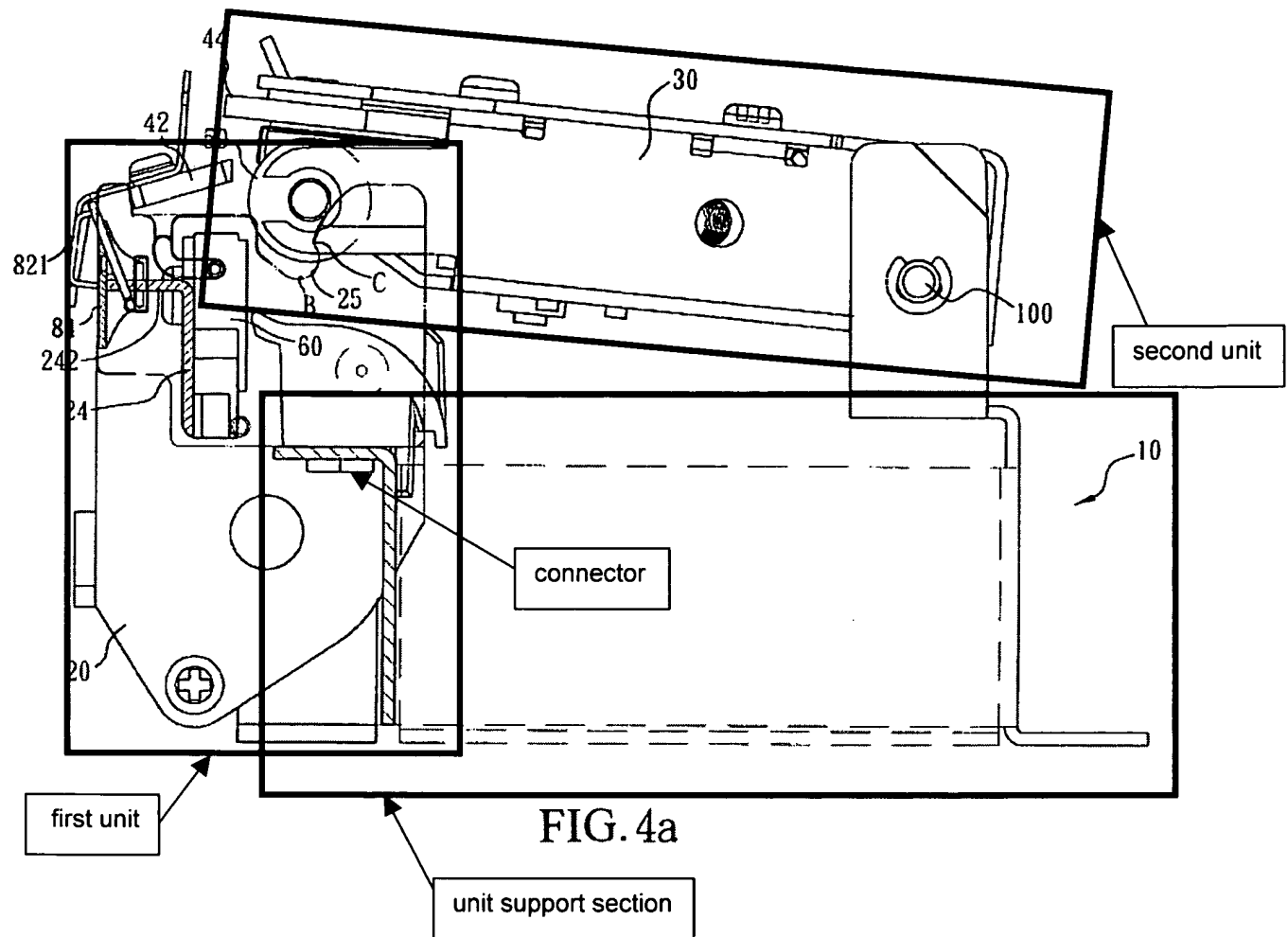


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Hosomi et al. further discloses a printing section having a platen P and a printhead H, a cutter section with a stationary blade 14 and a movable blade 9 with the guide path located therebetween. Figure 5 of Hosomi et al. shows a first unit located on one side of the guide path and having the platen P and the stationary blade 14 and a second unit located on the other side of the guide path having the printhead H and the movable blade 9. As shown in Figures 4-5 the first unit supports the second unit. Hosomi et al. additionally discloses a connecting mechanism 8,12 which removably connects the first unit to the second unit. The connecting mechanism 8,12 is capable of being disassembled or broken off in order to completely separate the second unit from the first unit.

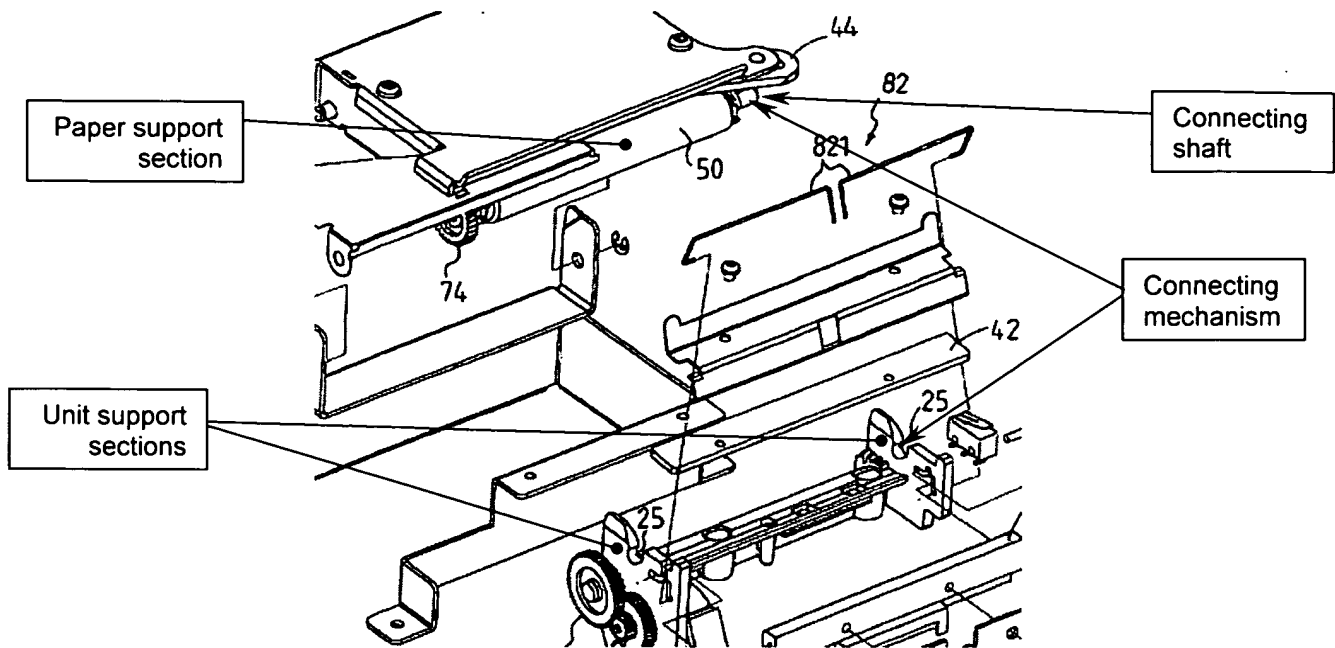
3. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robinson (US 6,447,187).

With respect to claim 1, Robinson discloses a printer unit with a guide path that passes through a printing section including a platen 50 and a printhead 60 as shown in Figure 4c of Robinson. Robinson further discloses a cutter section with a stationary blade 42 and a movable blade 44 with the guide path located therebetween. In Figure 4a Robinson shows a second unit located on one side of the guide path and having the platen 50 and the movable blade 44 and a first unit located on the other side of the guide path having the printhead 60 and the stationary blade 42. A connecting mechanism which removably connects the first unit to the second unit is formed by the end shafts of the platen 50 (one of which is shown in Figure 2) and the notch 25 shown in Figure 4a such that the first unit supports the second unit as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 4a of Robinson:



As can be seen above, when the second unit is pivoted upwards, it is completely separated from the first unit.

With respect to claim 2, the above Figure shows a unit support section on which the first unit is supported. The first unit could be removed by removing what appears to be a connector of some sort. If it is not a connector, the first unit could be removed by breaking it off of the unit support section.



With respect to claim 3, the connecting mechanism has a plurality of connecting shafts (only one is shown in the above Figure) mounted in the second unit, the axes of which are orthogonal to the direction of the guide path of the paper, and a plurality of support sections provided in the first unit for fitting the connecting shafts.

With respect to claim 4, the platen 50 has a paper support section and a support shaft at either end of the paper support section to serve as one of the connecting shafts as shown in the above Figure.

With respect to claim 6, Robinson discloses a movable blade holding section 30 which is mounted on the unit holding the movable blade as shown in Figure 1 of Robinson. The blade could be removed by disassembling the second unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8-9 are allowed.
5. Claims 5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and objected to for the above mentioned informalities, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and rewritten to overcome the informalities.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 2/1/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive of any error in the above rejection.

The above rejection has been modified from the version in the previous Office action in order to meet applicant's new claim language. With respect to the Robinson rejection, applicant may note that the first unit and second unit have been switched in order to meet applicant's new claim language.

It is noted that most structure that can be assembled is also capable of being removed or separated in one way or another.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Colilla whose telephone number is 571-272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 17, 2006


Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854